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PROGRAM

Metromedia News

STATION

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CITY

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SUBJECT

The Intelligence Community

GLORIA GIBSON: When a new president takes office he traditionally changes the guidelines governing US intelligence agencies. President Reagan recently did that. But the new guidelines may also mean more domestic spending. And Janet Rose reports that some people are concerned about that.

JANET ROSE: In the late '60s, early '70s, at the height of the anti-war movement, intelligence agencies, under growing political pressure, stepped up domestic surveillance. and as the unrest grew, so did their activities.

Under the Johnson Administration, abuses by the intelligence community began. But since the disclosure of those practices, there has been tight reigns on the intelligence agencies.

MAN: The real trick is to make certain that the abuses of the past don't recur in the future. And I think that can only be done through very strong oversight by the legislative commitees as well as the Executive Branch.

ROSE: Under the President's new guidelines, the CIA has new powers. For example, it can spy on an American it believes may have significant information.

Newsweek correspondent Dave Martin has covered intelligence extensively and says it still doesn't mean a return to the past.

DAVE MARTIN: As far as Americans who might be the targets of these operations are concerned, it does not mean that their phones are going to be bugged or tapped and their rooms

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bugged. For that the CIA still needs to go to a court and prove probable cause, prove that they believe that that American is working for a foreign power.

ROSE: For an American overseas, the CIA can make you a target whereas before it could not. And Martin admits that's an erosion of privacy.

The experts I talked to said, at the moment, they think Americans are protected against abuse of power by the intelligence community. But a precedent was set in the '60s and '70s, and we had a constitution, we had a Congress and we had laws then and they didn't prevent what happened.

I'm Janet Rose.